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ACTION: PAO

INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: PAO

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA; INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC SECDEF FOR OASD/PA USCINCCENT FOR POLAD LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR ZEYA LONDON PASS MOC

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: UAE DENIAL, WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA, KATRINA

- SUMMARY: UAE PRESIDENT'S ORDERS TO SEND URGENT RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS OF KATRINA AND UAE'S OFFICIAL DENIAL OF REPORTS IN THE ISRAELI PRESS REGARDING THE OPENING OF A REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICE IN DUBAI RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE UAE'S PRINT AND "AL-ITTIHAD" DAILY URGED FORMATION OF AN ELECTRONIC MEDIA. INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO INTERVENE RAPIDLY IN DEVASTATED AREAS. EDITORIAL IN THE LARGEST UAE DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" CRITICIZED STEPS TAKEN BY PAKISTAN TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS TO REWARD THE PALESTINIANS, RATHER THAN THE ISRAELI "OCCUPIERS" FOR QUITTING GAZA. END SUMMARY.
- ALL UAE'S ARABIC AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES HIGHLIGHTED AN MFA OFFICIAL SOURCE DENYING REPORTS IN ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS CLAIMING THAT "ISRAEL HAS OPENED A REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICE IN DUBAI". THE SOURCE ADDED THAT "THE UAE ADHERES COMPLETELY TO THE ARAB PEACE INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED IN BEIRUT AND ALGIERS THAT LINK ANY NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THEIR RIGHTS IN ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN STATE WITH JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL.'
- 13. UNDER THE HEADLINE "REWARD THE PALESTINIAN FIRST", SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" (CIRCULATION 85,000) 9/5 EDITORIALIZED:

"WAS THE GAZA STRIP JEWISH, AND THE WAR CRIMINAL SHARON GRANTED IT TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO RECEIVE SUCH AN APPRECIATION AND GET REWARDED BY ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS? GAZA WAS OCCUPIED AND REMAINS OCCUPIED, AND WHAT HAPPNED IS THAT JEWISH SETTLERS WERE RELOCATED FROM ARAB LAND INTO ANOTHER ARAB LAND. EVEN IF THE STRIP IS LIBERATED FROM ANY ZIONIST PRESENCE, THIS IS BECAUSE SHARON WANTS TO STOP PAYING A DEAR PRICE FOR HIS OCCUPATION OF GAZA, AND AT THE SAME TIME ENDEAVORS TO CEMENT HIS OCCUPATION OF WHAT REMAINS OF PALESTINE. THOSE WHO DESERVE A REWARD ARE NOT THE ASSASSINS IN THE ZIONIST ENTITY, BUT THE PATIENT AND STEADFAST PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHO MADE MANY AND UNPRECEDENTED SACRIFICES TO UPROOT THE OCCUPATION AND TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT STATE WITH JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL..THE PAKISTANI NORMALIZATION STEP WITH THE ZIONIST ENTITY REPRESENTED A REAL BREAKTHROUGH, YET IT WAS PRECEDED BY SECRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND THE ENTITY. NEWS COMING FROM TURKEY, WHICH SPONSORED SUCH A BREAKTHROUGH, TALKS ABOUT THE PREPARATION OF AN EXTENDED NORMALIZATION SUMMIT IN WHICH SHAROM MEETS WITH NEW ARAB LEADERS.. HAVE WE GIVEN UP THE LIBERATION OF WHAT REMAINS OF ARAB TERRITORIES OUTSIDE PALESTINE INCLUDING THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SYRIA, THE SHIBAA FARMS IN LEBANON AND THE 1967 BORDERS ON WHICH THE PALESTINIAN STATE IS SUPPOSED TO BE ESTABLISHED WHICH IS REJECTED BY SHARON WITH FULL U.S. BACKING? THESE ARE QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE SPEEDY ANSWERS."

14. COMMENTING ON THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN FORCE TO INTERFERE IN DEVASTATED AREAS, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" (CIRCULATION 65,000) 9/5 EDITORIALIZED:

"THE RAPID INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO RELIEF FOR THE VICTIMS OF KATRINA SHOWS THAT THE WORLD IS ACTUALLY LIVING IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE.. THE HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE THE U.S. IS EXPERIENCING FOLLOWING THE HURRICANE KTRINA REQUIRES THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO STAND TOGETHER AND RELIEVE THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY FROM ONE OF THE WORST CATASTROPHES IN HISTORY. THE UAE WAS AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS THAT HASTENED TO HELP THE NEEDY, REGARDLESS OF COLOR AND ETHNICITY, AS IT WAS AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS THAT GAVE A HAND TO THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI IN ASIA. THE CATASTROPHE IS HUGE AND NO ONE NATION CAN CONFRONT IT, EVEN A SUPERPOWER LIKE THE UNITED STATES.WHAT HAPPENED CONFIRMS THE NEED TO FORM AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE FOR RAPID INTERVENTION THAT WOULD BE READY TO PROVIDE RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD."

SISON